



NEWS RELEASE

**FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20427**

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Web site: www.fmcs.gov**

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Update on Labor Negotiations Between the Pacific Northwest Grain Handlers and ILWU Locals 4, 8, 19 & 23

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At the request of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), the parties have agreed to continue negotiations under our auspices. Due to the sensitivity of this high profile dispute and consistent with the Agency's longstanding practice, we will not disclose either the location of the meeting or the content of the substantive negotiations that will take place. In addition, the parties have agreed to an FMCS request that they refrain from any public comments regarding the status of negotiations conducted under our auspices.

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The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, created in 1947, is an independent U.S. government agency whose mission is to preserve and promote labor-management peace and cooperation. Headquartered in Washington, DC, with 10 district offices and 67 field offices, the agency provides mediation and conflict resolution services to industry, government agencies and communities.